



HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2013

a letter *to residents of* HOWARD COUNTY



The past year was filled with great accomplishments and heroic work. Because of this, the county is a safer place to live, work, and play.

For the seventh year in a row, major crimes have declined in most categories. Total crime has dropped by 11.5 percent since 2006. During that time period, robberies have decreased by 26 percent, burglaries by 22 percent, and auto theft by 60 percent.

These dramatic reductions have been made as a result of investments in both people and technology. The department continues to work with our community to identify problem areas that can be addressed by increased patrols, partnerships and problem solving. Through our commitment to analyzing crime trends and using our personnel as effectively as possible, we have focused our efforts where they are needed most.

The department now has a Community Mental Health Liaison, who facilitates connecting those in need with mental health services. Our commitment to preventing domestic violence and vigorously investigating those crimes when they occur is also having a positive impact on the safety of our residents.

We have taken yet another step in the effort to strengthen security within our schools. The 911 Center now has the technology to monitor video security cameras at Howard County Public Schools, providing an extra layer of safety for our children.

We have been able to significantly reduce the number of people dying on our roadways. Our targeted enforcement of high risk behaviors, our public awareness campaigns and our work with young drivers are making our roadways safer for all of us.

These improvements in our community would not be possible without the dedicated service of our officers, professional civilian staff and the scores of volunteers who commit their time and energy to this department. The personal sacrifices they make every day, in ways that are often not seen, are inspiring.

In October, however, we were all reminded of those dangers when Officer Steven Houk was shot while investigating a suspicious subject. Thankfully, he survived and is back to work. The outpouring of support that we received reminded us of the respect that our community has for us. We work every day to maintain that trust.

The coming year will be an exciting time for the agency and the community. We hope to institute several new programs, including a dedicated Pathway Patrol unit to ensure the safety of our citizens on the many miles of pathways, parks, open spaces and neighboring communities that make Howard County so inviting. We will also increase our abilities to combat human trafficking, fraud and identity theft. Finally, we will welcome Major Gary Gardner as he becomes our 11th Chief of Police. I look forward to the creativity and energy he will bring to the agency as we continue to "Build Upon Excellence."

Sincerely,


KEN ULMAN
County Executive

William J. McMahon

WILLIAM J. MCMAHON
Chief of Police

YEAR IN REVIEW

CRIME DOWN OVERALL

Howard County maintains a reputation as one of the safest counties in the region, with an enviable quality of life. In 2013, property crimes such as burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson decreased. Robbery cases remained under the five-year average. Overall crime numbers are down.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

In 2013, the agency continued its focus on traffic safety as a major component of public safety. The department expanded the school zone speed camera program with two Portable Computer Units (PCUs), maintained a four-year reduction in fatal crashes and won the Maryland Chief's Challenge, a competition among police agencies that addresses impaired driving and speeding.

MEDAL OF HONOR

Corporal Craig Ream received the Medal of Honor in recognition of the January 2013 rescue of a young woman from a burning vehicle. He is credited with saving her life.

OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

In October, Officer Steve Houk was shot and seriously injured by a suspect who fled into a wooded area in Laurel. After a night-long manhunt, the suspect was apprehended. The agency rallied during a difficult time and received tremendous support from the community. Officer Houk has made a full recovery and has returned to work.

CRISIS COMMUNICATION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2013, HCPD utilized social media to communicate with the community and media during crisis situations. The

use of Twitter quickly and efficiently got word to the masses during critical incidents such as the shooting of Officer Houk.

CONTINUING TO MEET DEMANDS

The department continued to build upon its workforce with 12 new sworn officer positions and three civilian positions added to the department's authorized strength. Five officers will fill a second R.O.P.E. team, as the current team has been very successful in addressing repeat offenders and is in high demand. Two officers will join the Family Crimes and Sexual Assault divisions and allow them to function independently. Two full time District Traffic Officers will be added to focus on traffic safety initiatives and enforcement. They will address community concerns such as speed enforcement and aggressive driving. These positions will be filled following the graduation of Academy 38. Additionally, all sworn personnel also completed updated active shooter training.

MENTAL HEALTH

The department now has a Community Mental Health Liaison who will be responsible for the review of all cases that have a mental health component. This liaison will facilitate getting mental health assistance to those in need.

SCHOOL SAFETY

The 911 Center can now monitor cameras at Howard County Public Schools that are equipped with a video security system. These cameras are only accessed in the event of a potential emergency as reported to the Police or Fire Departments. Chief McMahon co-chaired the School Safety Task Force in an effort to strengthen security within



YEAR IN REVIEW

our schools. Many of the task force's recommendations have already been implemented.

PROACTIVE POLICING

Through several proactive policing measures, Howard County Police sought to prevent and deter crime. Officers continued to conduct reverse prostitution operations in response to quality of life complaints from residents. The agency again partnered with the DEA to hold prescription medication disposal events. Additionally, Gun Buyback Safety Day resulted in the collection of over 600 weapons. Before Halloween, officers conducted checks on registered sex offenders in the County to ensure their compliance with the law.

YOUTH OUTREACH

HCPD continued to offer several youth outreach programs aimed at building positive relationships with children and teens. The Community Athletic Program, BearTrax, Collision Avoidance Training, and Youth Police Academy remain popular programs. The department also worked closely with liquor stores and Merriweather Post Pavilion to reduce underage drinking and the use of fake IDs.

EMERGENCY COLLABORATION

HCPD worked with the Office of Emergency Management and numerous other agencies to operate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on five instances in response to weather events in 2013. This multi-agency collaboration is essential to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all persons in Howard County during emergency situations.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

In November, the department opened its seventh Community Policing Office alongside the new Police Museum in Ellicott City. Merchants and residents now have a dedicated contact from the police department who can work with them to decrease crime. The officer assigned to this office is also a representative for the ElkrIDGE community. Additionally, the agency offered a session of the popular Citizens Police Academy, allowing residents an inside look at police operations.

GIVING BACK

HCPD officers, civilians, and charitable organizations continued the law enforcement tradition of giving back in 2013. Members took part in charitable events including the Polar Bear Plunge, Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, Wounded Warrior Project and more, as well as numerous fundraisers and donation drives for local residents in need.

FALLEN HEROS

The department organized its own Police Unity Tour team in 2013 to support and participate in the multi-state bicycle ride to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and participate in National Police Week in Washington, D.C. Locally, HCPD held its annual Memorial Ceremony and continues to support the families of our fallen heros. The annual Police Pace 5K in Centennial Park was held to raise money to help the families of officers who have been injured or killed.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Police Chief William J. McMahon is the highest-ranking officer and leader of the Howard County Department of Police. He works to develop goals, formulate plans and implement programs and policies designed to strategically solve problems. In addition, the Chief meets with community groups and business leaders to address concerns, solicit input and maintain a direct connection to Howard County residents.

THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS

DIVISION handles police personnel complaints, which range from alleged employee misconduct to matters of performance deficiencies. Complaints are investigated with adherence to established and accredited policies.

THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

communicates with the public and the news media. The office also is responsible for social media, the HCPD web site, special events, and all PR and marketing for the agency.

RESEARCH AND PLANNING is responsible for coordinating policy development, grant administration and accreditation compliance. The section manages the development of all written directives and ensures all policies are consistent with applicable laws, agency goals, accreditation standards and law enforcement practices.

THE QUALITY ASSURANCE

OFFICER is responsible for providing staff inspection functions. Through regular audits, the inspections ensure adherence to policies.

THE LIQUOR INSPECTOR

investigates alleged violations of liquor licensing laws, completes ongoing compliance checks and engages in enforcement activities.

THE ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT UNIT

handles enforcement of underage drinking laws.

ANCILLARY SERVICES

THE HONOR GUARD presents the colors at all formal ceremonies and represents the department at police funerals and special events.

THE POLICE FOUNDATION is comprised of local business leaders who provide assistance to the department by sharing business and management expertise. The foundation provides funding for BearTrax youth programs, manages a scholarship fund and sponsors the annual Police Pace 5K race.

THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL meets monthly to facilitate the flow of information to and from the police department and to engage in creative problem-solving efforts. The council then makes recommendations to the Chief to improve police services.

THE POLICE & BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS PARTNERSHIP

is comprised of members of the department and business community. The partnership works together to reduce and prevent commercial crime.

POLICE CHAPLAINS represent various faiths and participate in ceremonies, death notifications, last rites and assistance to family members in traumatic situations.



OPERATIONS COMMAND

PATROL OPERATIONS

Patrol Operations are divided into northern and southern districts. Patrol officers respond to calls for service, enforce traffic and criminal laws, address community needs and initiate actions based on observations.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT SECTIONS

work in both districts to aid patrol efforts by providing various services, including surveillance and saturation patrols.

THE BIKE PATROL PROGRAM is especially useful in maneuvering through Howard County's unique expanse of footpaths, open space and parks.

DUTY OFFICERS work the front desk at each district station and handle incoming calls and walk-in inquiries, as well as write certain types of police reports.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICERS address community needs and concerns and conduct crime prevention programs and presentations.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICERS address community needs and concerns through implementing crime prevention programs and conducting targeted enforcement. There are currently eight officers dedicated to this form of community policing.

POLICE CADETS provide a wide range of administrative and operational services. Cadets often have aspirations to become sworn police officers, and this position provides invaluable experience toward that goal.



OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS

THE INTELLIGENCE UNIT provides information on criminal activity to patrol officers and investigators.

THE CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT analyzes data on reported crimes and offenders to identify trends, develop suspects and assist in determining appropriate enforcement strategies.

THE GANG INVESTIGATIONS UNIT is responsible for the investigation and development of intelligence as it relates to potential and actual gangs and gang-related activity in the county.

YOUTH DIVISION

THE YOUTH SERVICES SECTION provides prevention and intervention services through programs including BearTrax, Community Athletic Program, Youth Police Academy, PLEDGE leadership camp and Explorer Post 1952. The section also handles runaway investigations and works with juvenile offenders.

THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SECTION manages the department's officers assigned to 13 high schools and six middle schools. School resource officers mentor students, hold classes and handle disturbances and arrests.

THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH SECTION offers crime prevention and driving safety programs to the County's senior citizens and multicultural residents.

THE MOBILE SPANISH INTERPRETER facilitates communication between police and the Limited English Proficiency population.

INVESTIGATIONS & SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Criminal Investigations Bureau serves as the primary investigative arm of the department and also assists crime victims. The bureau is committed to solving cases that have the greatest impact on the safety of residents.

THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION handles serious cases, such as violent crimes, robberies and property crimes. Investigations often involve surveillance operations, covert details and search and seizure warrants, as well as interviews of victims, witnesses and suspects. Detectives also investigate arson, auto theft and fraud cases.

THE VICE AND NARCOTICS DIVISION is responsible for investigating crimes involving the manufacture, sale, distribution and use of controlled dangerous substances. Members also investigate gambling, prostitution and organized crime.

THE FAMILY CRIMES AND SEXUAL ASSAULT DIVISION works at the new Child Advocacy Center, opened in 2012, alongside other agencies to investigate child abuse, sexual assaults and domestic violence incidents.

THE VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNIT provides crisis intervention, advocacy and support services to crime victims.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION includes the Tactical Section, K9 Support Unit, Aviation Unit, Civil Disturbance Unit and Critical Incident Negotiations Team. The division also manages 20 auxiliary officers, who volunteered a combined 6,980 hours of service in 2013, and a 12-member Volunteer Mounted Patrol Program, launched Spring 2012. From May to December, these volunteers provided 863 hours of service, patrolling Columbia Association and Howard County Park land by horse.

THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT DIVISION includes the Traffic Enforcement Section, which investigates serious traffic collisions; the Automated Enforcement Section, which oversees the Red Light Camera Program, Automated Speed Enforcement Program and False Alarm Reduction Program; and school crossing guards.



ADMINISTRATION COMMAND

MANAGEMENT SERVICES

THE SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION is comprised of the Forensic Services Section, which processes crime scenes; the Computer Forensics Unit, which analyzes electronic devices as part of investigations; the Quartermaster Section, which handles fleet management, supplies and inventory; and the Property and Evidence Section, which maintains custody of all evidence.

THE ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION investigates animal cruelty cases, rescues endangered animals, accepts unwanted pets, administers a pet adoption program, and conducts humane education programs. The division processed 2,559 domestic, stray and wild animals at the shelter and facilitated 682 adoptions in 2013. Personnel issued 538 citations and 287 warnings for animal code violations.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

Information and Technology is comprised of the Communications Division, which houses Howard County's 911 Center and handled 179,890 calls for police service in 2013; and the Information Management Division, which handles records and computer operations.

THE BUDGET FISCAL SECTION

This section is responsible for the financial administration of the department's operating budget, multiple grants and various revenue accounts.

HUMAN RESOURCES

THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIVISION coordinates police training for new recruits and recertification for current officers. The division provides training and professional development programs for the agency's civilian staff.

THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES DIVISION coordinates employment activities in conjunction with the county's Office of Human Resources for hiring, payroll, employment and benefit-related issues.

THE RECRUITMENT AND SCREENING SECTION processed applicants for one entry-level academy class in 2013. The police department is hiring new officers and cadets on a continuous basis. Interested applicants can find additional information online at www.HCPD.org.

THE CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT TEAM is comprised of police department employees who volunteer to provide support for agency members who are involved in a traumatic incident or are in need of peer support.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

ANNUAL AWARDS 2013

Medal of Honor

SGT Craig Ream

Police Officer of the Year

PFC Brian Reger

First Year Service Award

PO Hannah Cerrone

Outstanding Community Service Award

CPL Terrence Benn

Scott Wheeler Traffic Safety Award

PFC Christopher Johanson

Civilian Employee of the Year

Stacie Vollentine

Telecommunicator of the Year

Dispatcher First Class Ryan Niessner

Auxiliary Officer of the Year

Auxiliary Officer Ed Wallace

Explorer of the Year

Police Explorer Max Schell

Animal Control Volunteer of the Year

Erica Sully

Volunteer Mounted Patrol Officer of the Year

Kate Leary

POLICE OFFICERS OF THE MONTH 2013

PFC James Lentscher

PFC Elijah Cortez

PFC Symchay Bendu

PFC Raymond Peele

CPL Bradley Cornwell

PFC Jonathan Berry

PO Kristian Bush

DFC Wade Zufall

PFC Bradford Skove

PO Kalle James-Wintjen

(Honored on two occasions.)

PO Patrick Rafferty

CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER 2013

Fred von Briesen

Karen Donovan

Amy Sarver

Nancy Barr



CRIME STATISTICS

Crime statistics in Howard County are tracked in strict accordance with the national standards administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The UCR program is a nationwide cooperative statistical effort of law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data.

Additional statistics and reports are available online at www.HCPD.org.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
PART I OFFENSES					
Homicide	2	4	4	4	4
Theft	5,398	4,998	5,082	4,913	4,829
Aggravated assault	437	307	351	359	373
Robbery	262	222	211	177	204
Burglary	1,207	1,393	1,108	1,185	1,032
Motor vehicle theft	387	380	366	312	254
Rape	43	25	31	34	40
Arson	73	57	58	62	53
Total part I offenses	7,809	7,386	7,211	7,046	6,789

PART II OFFENSES					
Simple assault	2,540	2,891	2,886	2,755	2,778
Forgery/counterfeiting	301	281	501	607	661
False pretense/fraud	547	636	491	557	565
Embezzlement	94	89	87	61	74
Vandalism	2,198	1,831	1,674	1,614	1,548
Weapons violation	127	124	119	113	91
Prostitution/vice	99	88	61	47	48
Sex offenses	120	106	113	125	109
Drug violations	1,089	1,080	1,065	1,057	1,040
Gambling	5	4	2	0	0
Family, child neglect/abuse	198	174	184	208	136
Driving while intoxicated	1,367	1,548	1,291	1,046	1,080
Liquor law violation	291	277	242	167	174
Disorderly conduct	334	311	281	301	321
All other part II offenses	1,300	1,288	1,301	1,385	1,332
Total part II offenses	10,610	10,728	10,298	10,043	9,957

ARRESTS					
Adult, part I	1,017	963	967	1,052	1,103
Adult, parts II and III	5,042	4,825	4,825	4,168	3,928
Juvenile, part I	652	626	626	576	568
Juvenile, parts II and III	1,178	1,054	1,054	773	889

COMPLAINTS IN 2013

Conduct

Conformance to Laws	11
Improper Conduct	5
Rudeness	6
Workplace Harassment	0
Truthfulness	0
Insubordination	0

Performance

Biased-based Profiling	2
Court Failure to Appear	8
Harassment	1
Improper Use of Force	15
Unlawful Search	6
Work Performance	19

Total complaints: 51

Total number of officers involved: 73

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE

Organized	1952
Chief of Police	William J. McMahon
Authorized Full-Time Sworn Officers	457
Authorized Civilian Personnel	192 full-time civilians 57 contingent employees
Auxiliary Officers	20 officers 12 mounted patrol
Bike Officers	34
K9 Teams	7
Calls for Police Service in 2013	179,890
FY14 Budget	\$99,888,200
Starting Police Officer Annual Salary	\$47,798
Police Officer Training	31 weeks in classroom 14 weeks in field training

HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Founded	1851
County Executive	Ken Ulman
Full-Time Employees	2,549
Population (<i>as of November 2013</i>)	299,275
Area	251 square miles
County Seat	Ellicott City
FY14 General Fund Budget	\$969,839,219
Chief Administrative Officer	Lonnie Robbins
County Council	Jennifer Terrasa , Chairperson Mary Kay Sigaty, Vice Chairperson Calvin Ball Greg Fox Courtney Watson

FACTS *at a* GLANCE

Our mission: To provide a secure environment for the citizens of Howard County by protecting life and property, reducing the opportunity for crime and disorder, enforcing the law, assisting victims and providing other police-related services as required by the community in a manner consistent with the values of a free society.

HCPD embraces the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police.

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

[Facebook.com/HowardCountyPoliceDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/HowardCountyPoliceDepartment)

Twitter: @HCPDNews

www.HCPD.org, 410-313-3200

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